

EXHIBIT A

Fischer sequence
IVALPXGMLK

SEQ ID NO: 2 (single letter sequence)

YFPPPAAKEDFLGCLVKEIPRLLYAKSSPAYPSVLGQTIRNSRWSSPDNVKPIYIVTPTNASHIQSAVVC
GRRHGVIRVRSGGHDYEGLSYRSLQPEEFAVVDLSKMRAVWDGKARTAWVDGSAQLGELYAIHKASTV
LAFAVGVCPTIGVGGNFAGGGFGMLLRKYGINAENVIDVKLVDANGTLHDKKSMDHFVAVRGGGGESFG
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YVSKNPRQAYANYRDIIDLGRNEVVNDVSTFSSGLVWGQKYFKGNFQRRAITKGKVDPTDYFRNEQSIPPL
KKY

SIM+LALNVIEW analysis

37.5% identity in 8 residues overlap; Score: 22.0; Gap frequency: 0.0%

Fischer, 1 IVALPXGM
Phlp4(#2), 142 VLAFFAGV
* * *

SEQ ID NO: 4 (single letter sequence)

YFPPPAAKEDFLGCLVKEIPRLLYAKSSPAYPSVLGQTIRNSRWSSPDNVKPIYIVTPTNASHIQSAVVC
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KKY

SIM+LALNVIEW analysis

37.5% identity in 8 residues overlap; Score: 22.0; Gap frequency: 0.0%

Fischer, 1 IVALPXGM
Phlp4(#4), 142 VLAFFAGV
* * *

SEQ ID NO: 6 (single letter sequence)

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KKY

SIM+LALNVIEW analysis

42.9% identity in 7 residues overlap; Score: 19.0; Gap frequency: 0.0%

Fischer, 2 VALPXGM
Phlp4(#6), 143 LAFFAGV
* * *

EXHIBIT B




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Item 1 - 4 of 4

1: [P43213](#). Reports RecName: Full=Pol...[gi:1171008]

[BLink](#)[Conserved Domains](#)[Links](#)[Next sequence](#)

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Allergen=Phi p 1; Flags: Precursor
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2: [CAA81613](#). Reports pollen allergen P...[gi:3901094]

[BLink](#)[Conserved Domains](#)[Links](#)[Next sequence](#)

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3: [2118271A](#). Reports allergen Phi p I...[gi:1582250]

[BLink](#)[Conserved Domains](#)[Links](#)[Next sequence](#)

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4: [CAA55390](#). Reports Phi p I allergen ...[gi:473360]

[BLink](#)[Conserved Domains](#)[Links](#)[Previous sequence](#)

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```

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Last update: Wed, 29 Apr 2009 Rev. 158843

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	<h2>ClustalW2 Results</h2> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Results of search</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of sequences</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alignment score</td> <td>9659</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sequence format</td> <td>Pearson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sequence type</td> <td>aa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JalView</td> <td>View file</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Output file</td> <td>clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.output</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alignment file</td> <td>clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.phn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guide tree file</td> <td>clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.dnd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Your input file</td> <td>clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.input</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <input type="button" value="SUBMIT ANOTHER JOB"/> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Results of search		Number of sequences	4	Alignment score	9659	Sequence format	Pearson	Sequence type	aa	JalView	View file	Output file	clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.output	Alignment file	clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.phn	Guide tree file	clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.dnd	Your input file	clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.input	<input type="button" value="SUBMIT ANOTHER JOB"/>
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Your input file	clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.input																							
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To save a result file right-click the file link in the above table and choose "Save Target As". If you cannot see the JavViewbutton, reload the page and check your browser settings to enable Java Applets.

Scores Table

Sort by Sequence Number View Output File

SeqA	Name	Len(aa)	SeqB	Name	Len(aa)	Score
1	gi 1171008	263	2	gi 3901094	263	93
1	gi 1171008	263	3	gi 1582250	262	93
1	gi 1171008	263	4	gi 473360	263	100
2	gi 3901094	263	3	gi 1582250	262	98
2	gi 3901094	263	4	gi 473360	263	93
3	gi 1582250	262	4	gi 473360	263	93

PLEASE NOTE: Some scores may be missing from the above table if the alignment was done using multiple GPU mode. Please check the output.

Sort by: Sequence Number View Output File

Assignment

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CLUSTAL 2.0.12 multiple sequence alignment

gi 1171008	MASSSSVLLVVVLLFAVFLGSAYI PKPVKPPNITATYGDWKLDAKSTWYKGPTGAGPKDN 60
gi 473360	MASSSSVLLVVVLLFAVFLGSAYI PKPVKPPNITATYGDWKLDAKSTWYKGPTGAGPKDN 60
gi 3901094	MASSSSVLLVVVLLFAVFLGSAYI PKPVKPPNITATYGDWKLDAKSTWYKGPTGAGPKDN 60
gi 1582250	MASSSSVLLVVVLLFAVFLGSAYI PKPVKPPNITATYGDWKLDAKSTWYKGPTGAGPKDN 60
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gi 473360	GGACGKYKDVKDPFFSGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRCGGSCEF1KCTPEACSGEFPVVVHIT'DNE 120
gi 3901094	GGACGKYKDVKDPFFSGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRCGGSCEF1KCTPEACSGEFPVVVHIT'DNE 120
gi 1582250	GGACGKYKDVKDPFFSGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRCGGSCEF1KCTPEACSGEFPVVVHIT'DNE 120
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gi 3901094	EPIAAHXPEDLSCHAFGMAAKKGD3DQLRSAGELELQFPRRKVCKYPEGTKTFTFVVEKGSNP 180
gi 1582250	EPIAAHXPEDLSCHAFGMAAKKGD3DQLRSAGELELQFPRRKVCKYPEGTKTFTFVVEKGSNP 180
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gi 3901094	NYLALLVVKFVAGDGDVAVD1IKEKGKDKW1ELKESGAIWR1DTPEVLKGPFTVTVRTTEG 230
gi 1582250	NYLALLVVKFVAGDGDVAVD1IKEKGKDKW1ELKESGAIWR1DTPEVLKGPFTVTVRTTEG 230
	*****;*****;*****;*****;*****;*****;*****;*****;*****;*****;
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gi 473360	GTKTEAEDW1PEGWKADETSYESK 263
gi 3901094	GTKGEAKD1V1PEGWKADETAYESK 263
gi 1582250	GTKARAKD1V1PEGWKADETAYESK 262
	*** .*****;*****;*****;

PLEASE NOTE: Showing colors on large alignments is slow.

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.:0.06095,  
gi|4733601|:0.00000)
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Unveiling the secrets of the primary structure of Phl p 4

Molecular cloning of the major pollen allergen from Timothy Grass (*Phleum pratense*)

A. Nandy, S. Buchhop, R. Suck, A. Petersen*, O. Cromwell, H. Fiebig

Allergopharma Joachim Ganzer KG, R&D Department, 21465 Reinbek, Germany

*Research Center Borstel, Biochemical & Molecular Allergology, Borstel, Germany

Contact e-mail: andreas.nandy@allergopharma.de

Introduction

Grass pollen allergy is one of the most common allergies worldwide. Recombinant allergens are believed to represent the future of allergen specific immunotherapy. Whereas the cDNA sequences of several grass pollen allergens are known, the coding sequence for Phl p 4, a major grass pollen allergen recognised by more than 70 % of allergic patients (1-5), has so far escaped detection (5).

Results

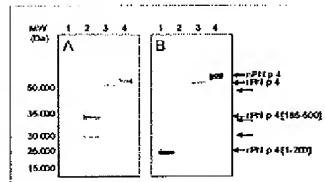
The deduced amino acid sequence of full length Phl p 4 contains 500 amino acids, with a calculated MW of 55,7 kDa and a calculated basic pI of 8,8 (Tab. 2). The identity of the Phl p 4 sequence has been confirmed by positive reaction of recombinant Phl p 4 with specific monoclonal antibodies (Fig. 2) and by reaction with IgE from grass pollen allergic (Fig. 3). A sequence database homology search revealed similarities to a group of berberine bridge enzyme-like oxido-reductases (Fig. 4).

Tab. 2 Phl p 4 Sequence analysis

Amino acid	Number	% by weight	% by frequency
A	Asn	40	5.7
C	Asp	21	3.0
D	Asx	21	4.2
E	Cys	24	3.4
F	Gln	24	3.4
G	Gly	24	4.0
H	Glu	24	4.0
I	Gly	26	3.9
K	Gly	26	5.0
L	Gly	26	2.7
M	Gly	26	2.7
N	Gly	26	4.0
P	Gly	26	2.7
R	Gly	26	1.9
S	Gly	26	3.9
T	Gly	26	2.7
V	Gly	26	4.0
W	Gly	26	2.7
Y	Gly	26	2.7
A	Leu	24	3.4
C	Leu	24	2.7
D	Leu	24	2.7
E	Leu	24	2.7
F	Leu	24	2.7
G	Leu	24	2.7
H	Leu	24	2.7
I	Leu	24	2.7
K	Leu	24	2.7
L	Leu	24	2.7
M	Leu	24	2.7
N	Leu	24	2.7
P	Leu	24	2.7
R	Leu	24	2.7
S	Leu	24	2.7
T	Leu	24	2.7
V	Leu	24	2.7
W	Leu	24	2.7
Y	Leu	24	2.7
A	Val	24	2.7
C	Val	24	2.7
D	Val	24	2.7
E	Val	24	2.7
F	Val	24	2.7
G	Val	24	2.7
H	Val	24	2.7
I	Val	24	2.7
K	Val	24	2.7
L	Val	24	2.7
M	Val	24	2.7
N	Val	24	2.7
P	Val	24	2.7
R	Val	24	2.7
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V	Val	24	2.7
W	Val	24	2.7
Y	Val	24	2.7

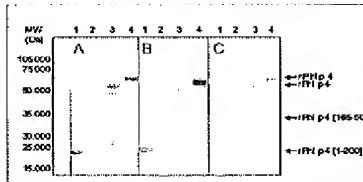
* Total the binding of a twin carboxyl could not be proved by purified natural or recombinant Phl p 4.

Fig. 2 Reaction of recombinant Phl p 4 with monoclonal antibodies



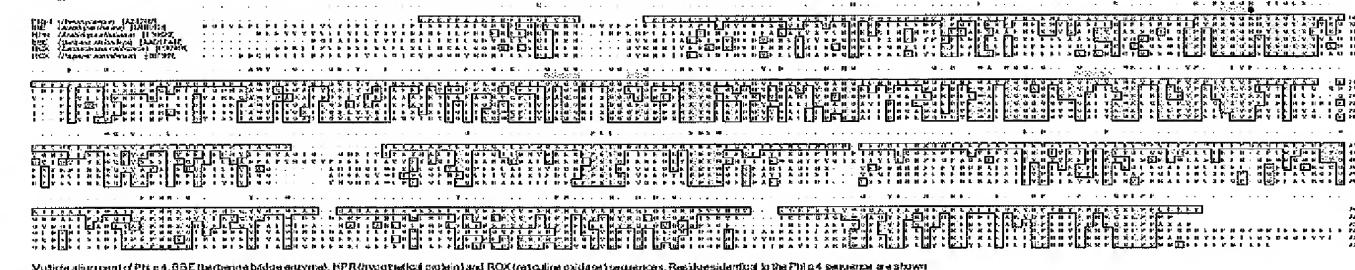
Western blot of whole cell extracts of *E. coli* expressing (1) a N-terminal fragment of Phl p 4 (aa 1-200, MW ~ 22 kDa), (2) a C-terminal fragment of Phl p 4 (aa 1-65, MW ~ 10 kDa), (3) a full length/recombinant Phl p 4, and (4) purified natural Phl p 4. The monoclonal antibody SH1 detects Phl p 4, Phl p 4 and the C-terminal fragment. The monoclonal antibody 3C4 detects Phl p 4/Phl p 4 and the N-terminal fragment Phl p 4.

Fig. 3 Reaction of recombinant Phl p 4 with IgE of grass pollen allergic subjects



Western blot of whole cell extracts of *E. coli* expressing (1) a N-terminal fragment of Phl p 4 (aa 1-200, MW ~ 22 kDa), (2) a C-terminal fragment of Phl p 4 (aa 1-65, MW ~ 10 kDa), (3) a full length/recombinant Phl p 4, and (4) purified natural Phl p 4. IgE from sera of three different grass pollen allergic individuals (A, B, C) confirmed the IgE reactivity of recombinant Phl p 4.

Fig. 4 Phl p 4 sequence and alignment with members of the berberine bridge enzyme (BBe) oxidoreductase family



Conclusion

The ability to produce recombinant Phl p 4, a major allergen of grass pollen with one of the highest IgE binding frequencies measured in sera of pollen allergic patients, may represent a key step for the development of future diagnostic and immunotherapeutic preparations. Recombinant Phl p 4 will also serve as a valuable tool to elucidate the role of the carbohydrate moiety of natural Phl p 4 in IgE reactivity and cross-reactivity with other plant and food allergens.

Methods

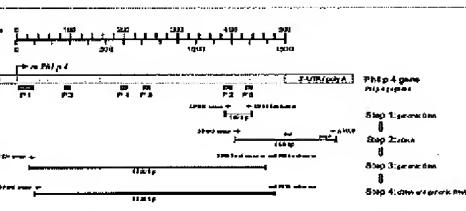
A set of degenerate oligonucleotide primers was designed based on N-terminal and internal protein sequences obtained from purified natural Phl p 4 (Tab. 1). In a complex PCR strategy (Fig. 1) involving degenerate and specific primers the Phl p 4 gene could be amplified from genomic DNA and from cDNA derived from *Phleum pratense* pollen.

Tab. 1 N-terminal and internal peptide sequences of Phl p 4

Peptide	Sequence	From	To	Segment
P1	YEVH PAKED QHGL YKE P P P P L YK P P A Y	1	33	N-terminal
P1'	YEVH PAKED QHGL YKE P P P P L YK P P A Y	1	39	N-terminal
P1	YEVH PAKED QHGL	1	16	N-terminal
P1'	YEVH PAKED QHGL	1	15	N-terminal
P1	YEVH PAKED QHGL	1	11	N-terminal
P1'	YEVH PAKED QHGL	1	11	N-terminal
P2	YEVH PAKED QHGL	33	40	Carboxyl
P3	GILKQYDME	99	102	Carboxyl
P4	YEVH PAKED QHGL	103	203	Carboxyl
P5	YEVH PAKED QHGL	203	215	Carboxyl
P6	YEVH PAKED QHGL	215	242	Carboxyl

N-terminal sequencing of purified natural Phl p 4 and of fragments obtained from protease digestion of *C. corynorhiza* revealed the peptide sequences P1-P6. P1-3 are presumably represented in the N-terminal of natural Phl p 4.

Fig. 1 Phl p 4 Cloning strategy



References

- R. Suck, S. Hagen, O. Cromwell, H. Fiebig (2000), Clin. Exp. Allergy, 30, 1395-1402
- R.E. Rossi, G. Monasterolo, S. Monasterolo (2001), Allergy 56, 1180-1183
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DNA sequences of group 4 allergens from rye, wheat, barley and *Lolium perenne*

Comparison with isoforms of *Phleum pratense* Phl p 4

A. Nandy, M. Wald, L. Gräfe, O. Cromwell, H. Fiebig

Allergopharma Joachim Ganzer KG, R&D Department, 21465 Reinbek, Germany
Contact e-mail: andreas.nandy@allergopharma.de

Introduction

Grass pollen allergy is one of the most important allergic diseases world-wide. Several grass species grown in meadows, like *P. pratense* and *L. perenne*, contribute to allergic sensitizations, but also allergens from extensively cultured cereals, especially rye, make a profound contribution to the development of allergy. The group 4 major allergen of *P. pratense*, Phl p 4, is recognised by more than 70 % of grass allergic patients^{1,2}. IgE-binding cross-reactivity has been described for some group 4 allergens of different grass species³, but until now only the Phl p 4 gene could be deciphered on the DNA-level.

Results

The Poaceae group 4 allergens represent a family of basic proteins with molecular weights of about 55 kDa and calculated pI values far above 8 (Tab. 1, Fig. 1). In rye, wheat and *P. pratense* distinct isoforms with amino acid identities of 88 to 94 % could be detected. Additionally these isoforms exist in different minor variants. The inter-species homology lies in the range 83 % (Phl p 4 to Triticeae species) to 95 % (Sec c 4 to Tri a 4) (Fig. 2, Fig. 3).

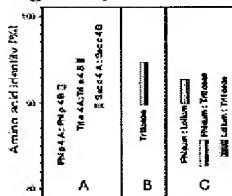
Tab. 1 Sequence analysis of grass pollen group 4 allergens

Protein	Source	Sequence length (amino acids)	Isoelectric point (pI)	Molecular weight (Da)
Phl p 4 A	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	500	8.3	55,895
Phl p 4 B	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	500	9.2	55,624
LoP 4*	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	423 (fragment)	8.8*	*
Sec c 4 A	<i>Secale cereale</i> (rye)	498	9.1	54,930
Sec c 4 B	<i>Secale cereale</i> (rye)	498	9.3	54,903
Tri a 4 A	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> (wheat)	497	8.8	55,237
Tri a 4 B	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> (wheat)	497	8.8	55,149
Hor v 4	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley)	496	9.3	54,815

The sequence length, isoelectric points and molecular weight calculations were made on the basis of the mature proteins. For Phl p 4 the N-terminal residue has been determined by N-terminal protein sequencing. Based on the homology alignment (Fig. 1) the putative cleavage sites of trypsin/Chp have been used for calculation.

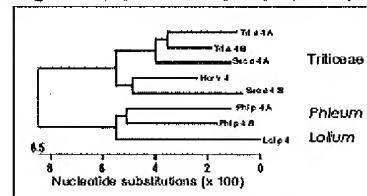
*The LoP 4 sequence is only partial and contains about 65 % of the mature LoP 4 sequence.

Fig. 2 Sequence identities



The amino acid identities were calculated on the basis of the mature allergens. In case of LoP 4 the corresponding region has been overestimated. A: The sequence identities of three isoforms of group 4 allergens range from 89 % (Sec c 4) to 98 % (Tri a 4). The two major variants of Phl p 4 show inter-identities of 92 %. B: The identities of allergens of the Triticeae species (Sec c 4, 95 %; Sec c 4 B, 95 %; Sec c 4 A, 92 %; Tri a 4, 92 %). C: Inter-species identities of members of the general Triticeae, Lolium and of the 3 Trifoliate genera Hordeum, Lolium and of the 3 Triticeae genera Secale, Triticeae.

Fig. 3 Phylogenetic tree of grass group 4 allergens



The dendrogram illustrates the phylogenetic relationships of the grass group 4 allergens. The rooted tree has been generated by using the DNA sequence alignment (Fig. 1). Remarkably little sequence variation (e.g. Sec c 4 A and Sec c 4 B) shows sequence identities similar to those of sequences originating from different Triticeae species (compare also Fig. 2A and 2B). The same can be seen for *Phleum pratense* variants that have similar degrees of amino acid difference as compared to the *Lolium perenne* sequence (compare also Fig. 2A and 2C).

85

8 6 4 2 0 Nucleotide substitutions (x 100)

Conclusion

The group 4 allergens represent a family of proteins that are conserved among different grass species. The occurrence of cross-reacting isoforms in distinct species with amino acid homologies that are comparable to those of different group 4 molecules across the species border is remarkable. Since recombinant group 4 allergens may be important for a future recombinant allergen based specific immunotherapy, strong efforts should be made to evaluate the cross-reactive therapeutic potential of the different group 4 allergens and their isoforms.

Methods

Based on the DNA sequence of Phl p 4 several PCR-primer sequences with cross-reactivity to DNA sequences of related species could be designed. The group 4 DNA sequences of *Lolium perenne* (LoP 4), *Secale cereale* (Sec c 4), *Hordeum vulgare* (Hor v 4), and *Triticum aestivum* (Tri a 4) have been amplified, cloned and sequenced.

Fig. 1 Deduced amino acid sequence alignment of grass pollen group 4 allergens

Phl p 4 A: *Phleum pratense* Phl p 4 A; Phl p 4 B: *Phleum pratense* Phl p 4 B; LoP 4: *Lolium perenne* LoP 4; Sec c 4 A: *Secale cereale* (rye) Sec c 4 A; Sec c 4 B: *Secale cereale* (rye) Sec c 4 B; Hor v 4: *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) Hor v 4; Tri a 4 A: *Triticum aestivum* (wheat) Tri a 4 A; Tri a 4 B: *Triticum aestivum* (wheat) Tri a 4 B. The deduced amino acid sequence alignment of the grass pollen group 4 allergens is shown. The alignment was generated by using the Clustal W program (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/clustalw). The putative cleavage sites of trypsin/Chp have been used for calculation. The deduced amino acid sequence alignment of the grass pollen group 4 allergens is shown. The alignment was generated by using the Clustal W program (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/clustalw). The putative cleavage sites of trypsin/Chp have been used for calculation.

Multiple alignment of Phl p 4 variant forms, LoP 4 variant forms, Sec c 4 variant forms, Tri a 4 variant forms, and Hordeum vulgare (barley) Hor v 4. Residues that match the consensus sequence are shaded in yellow. The start of the mature Phl p 4 sequence is indicated by N-terminal protein sequencing of purified natural Phl p 4s marked with a red arrow. Potential N-glycosylation sites are marked with blue dots.

*The LoP 4 sequence is only partial and contains about 65 % of the mature LoP 4 sequence.

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Recombinant *Phleum pratense* pollen allergen Phl p 4 Clues to new data for an old allergen?

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Introduction

The group 4 allergens of grasses were first described more than 20 years ago and are well known as important major allergens of grass pollen allergy, one of the most common allergies world-wide. *Phl p 4* is a basic glycoprotein that, together with *Phl p 13*, accounts for the high molecular weight fraction of grass pollen allergens. Frequencies of IgE sensitisation higher than 70% have often been reported (1-3), and therefore *Phl p 4* seems to be as important as *Phl p 5*. Contrary to the situation for *Phl p 5* and other important *Phleum* allergens, the primary structure of *Phl p 4* has been discovered only recently, despite very considerable efforts in the past.

Fig. 1 PhIP4 cloning strategy

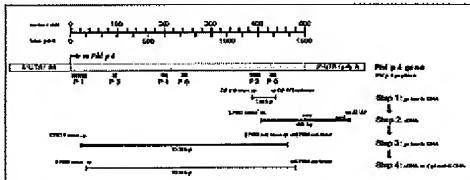
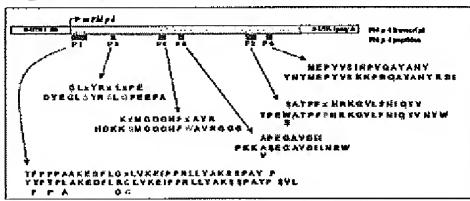
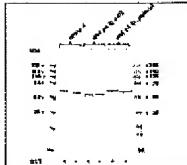


Fig. 2 Alignment of Phil p 4 peptides with deduced amino acid sequences



Natural Pth p 4 derived N-terminal and internal peptide sequences (first lines) served to confirm the deduced Pth p 4A (second lines) and Pth p 4B (third lines) genomic and cDNA sequences.

Fig. 4 SDS-PAGE analysis



Strain-PAGE comparison of natural nRNP proteins recombinant rPhi 64 expressed in *E. coli* and coprocessed in *P. pastoris*

Fig. 5 Human IgE inhibition assay

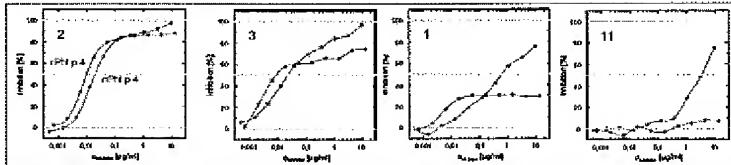
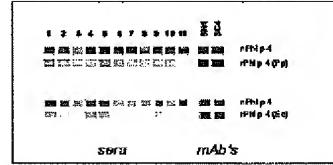


Fig. 1. Inhibition assay using sera of grass pollen allergic blood donors and purified natural Pthp 4 as solid phase. The inhibitory capacity of natural Pthp 4 (grey dots) and recombinant Pthp 4-His purified from *P. trichocarpa* (red dots) from serum cultures were compared. The sera of subjects I, and II are known to contain significant amounts of cross-reacting antibody to the extracellular domain of CXCR2. IgG is indicated by a dot.

Fig. 6 Allergen strips - IgE and mAb reactivity



Allergen strips containing Rf p 4B-Hs purified from *R. psudola* expression cultures and rPf p 4A expressed in *E. coli*. The *E. coli* derived protein has been purified from inclusion bodies and was solubilized in 4M GuHCl prior to assay.

Conclusion

The ability to produce recombinant Ph1 p 4 may represent a key step for the development of future diagnostic and immunotherapeutic preparations and may be of special importance for those allergic persons that show a strong IgE response to Ph1 p 4.

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